What Do They Do When They're Not Firefighting?

What do firemen do when not fighting fires? Pictures prove all spare time is not spent playing cards. One of department's vital jobs is life-saving by resuscitator, with which men must be familiar. Here city firemen Bill Heater, 3040 Fifth; George Robertson, 3154 Hillside, and, on floor, Stan McLaren, 1234 Basil, keep up-to-date in operating life-saving equipment.

Like men in any occupation who take pride in doing good job, firemen spend time in practice, study. Here Bill Jones, 1626 Oakland, does text-book drill on rope work that may save minutes in time and dollars in damage on job later. Firemen work 48-hour week, with 10-hour day shifts, 14-hour night shifts, and 23 hours over Sunday in two-platoon system.

Long hours on duty (they can't go out for coffee or lunch) mean "household" chores for firemen. Here Bob Christianson, 821 Princess, cleans up stove in staff lunchroom, while Gordon Jones, 3946 Cedar Hill, does mop drill on floor. In this room of firehall men prepare and eat own meals, then go below for daily chores polishing trucks, keeping hose in shape.

It may look like great fun to small boys, but firemen's know-how with net may save their own lives as well as those of citizens caught in upper floors by fire. Gordon Jones leaps into net held by fellow-firemen under watchful eyes of Capt. Carl Mills, 1510 Fairfield. Second later, Jones' feet were high, and he landed safely in proper sitting position.—(Colonist photos by Jim Ryan.)

LOCAL NEWS

The Daily Colonist.

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To Be Ready by April 1

Green Light Ordered For Goldstream Park

Not Like Last Year

Hostility Gone As Court Opens

A rather hostile crowd of 160 ratepayers confronted the court of revision on assessments in the southern part of Saanich last year when it opened its hearings in a Valentine-decorated hall.

But the apperance of a general uprising was gone when the court opened this year's hearings yesterday.

The municipal assessor this year mailed out notices of individual appointment times with the court, and only a dozen or so ratepayers were waiting when the court sat.

Chairman Waldo Skillings nevertheless took early opportunity, when a ratepayer muttered about his assessment being sustained, to issue a warning that the court wouldn't take any abuse.

He reminded the ratepayer that he could be found in contempt of court.

Power Prober

Preliminary study of overspending on B.C. Power Commission projects will be carried out by L. C. Peterman, vice-president of a New York firm of consulting engineers. Study will take a week. He will report to the Shrum Commission. (See Page 1.)

10 Campsites Completed Each Day

After ordering a slowdown on work at Goldstream Park last month because of lack of funds the provincial parks branch has ordered full steam ahead.

Fifty men are now employed on the job in a rush to have the park completed by April 1. Gravel crews are working on double shift until 2 a.m. each day.

CUT TO 22

After the slow-down order the crew had been cut to 22 men, mainly permanent parks branch employees.

Seventy-two of the 147 campsites are completed and could be occupied.

On Monday a crew of 10 men will start work clearing for 50 new camping sites at Ivy Green Park near Ladysmith.

WATER SYSTEM

Biggest job left at Goldstream is installation of the water system. About 10 new campsites are being completed each day.

The three miles of park road are in fair condition and will receive the final gravel after the water system has been installed.

Work started this week on the picnic site at the lower end of Goldstream, where most people go to watch the fish run up the river.

50 PICNIC TABLES

Fifty picnic tables are being placed there and an extensive parking lot will be created.

Goldstream Park will be the showpiece of the provincial park system. It is the park where government officials will be able to take guests to show them what a provincial park is like.

The new park is the first to start a trend toward bigger camping areas where campers will be able to pitch a small tent for the youngsters alongside their main tent.

TEMPORARY BRIDGE

A temporary bridge has been placed over the Goldstream, but plans call for a rustic type bridge to be erected later.

Also in future planning is a footpath along the Goldstream and under the highway and a nature museum at the picnic site.

Ice Show Tickets Sold Tomorrow

Tickets go on sale tomorrow at the arena for the big ice show Feb. 23 and 24, the start of a public appeal to raise $123,000 for another ice surface behind the arena.

All seats are the same price—$1 for the 2¼-hour presentation, starting at 8 each night, which features 400 costumed little skaters, square dances, lacrosse on skates, Victoria Girls' Drill Team, comic turns, broomball game, hockey exhibition and dozens of figure-skating stars.

Sponsors are the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Victoria Figure Skating Club and Minor Hockey Association.

Peterson Speaks In House Today

Education Minister Leslie Peterson will speak in the budget debate in the legislature today.

First speaker when the House sits at 2 p.m. will be John Tisdalle (SC, Saanich). Other speakers are Arthur Turner (CCF, Vancouver-East), William Asselstine (SC, Atlin), Cyril Shelford (SC, Omineca) and Harold Roche, (SC, Peace River).

B.C.'s Flag Waved

Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston did a little flag waving in the legislature yesterday and at the same time suggested that the B.C. centennial flag, with some minor alterations, be adopted as the British Columbia flag.

He made it clear he was speaking as the member from Fort George and not as a member of the government. He pointed out that Nova Scotia and Quebec have provincial flags.

"We would have a suitable symbol recognized wherever we go," he said. "With general support it might do a good job for B.C."

He suggested that the legislature when declaring Douglas Day an observance day, should consider adopting a B.C. flag.

He said the centennial flag, which was designed by a civil servant could easily be adapted by taking out the dates and placing on it the motto of B.C.—Splendor Sine Occasu.

He made the suggestion as he waved one of the flags before members of the House.

Seen in Passing

MORRISON (BUD) CURRY

Morrison (Bud) Curry, a rookie policeman, making some notes just before going out on his first traffic assignment. (A member of the city force for only three months, he lives at 2553 Prior with his wife, **Irene**. His hobbies include all sorts of spectator sports and hunting) . . . **Ted Walton** talking on the telephone . . . **George Bates** drinking milk as friends watched him in amazement . . . **Frank Siddon** trying to line up a skip to take him to the Seattle bonspiel in April . . . former reeve **Joseph Casey** and former councillor **Eugene Diespecker** of Saanich asking their way about in the new buildings at the municipal hall.

Tons of groceries toppled from shelves and wound up in the basement yesterday when the floor of Oak Bay Produce gave way as the wall of the building suddenly collapsed.—(Colonist photo.)

★ ★ ★

Foundation Sags, Wall 'Suspended' In City Building

Collapse of one end foundation of a large building in the Oak Bay business section yesterday caused workmen to flee and at least three persons to scurry from their shops.

The east wall of the building was still hanging "suspended" above the collapsed foundation last night, police said.

Sue Gain, 717 Queens, operator of Oak Bay Produce, 2194 Oak Bay, and her 65-year-old mother, Mrs. Gee Gain, fled from the building when they heard a "terrific crack and rumble," only minutes before their store wall and floor buckled.

WORKMEN FLED

Workmen employed by A. K. Smalley Construction, working only feet away, on the adjacent property fled hastily when the concrete wall began to spring.

Club Tango owner, Edward Hicks, who rents the upper floor, said the floor dropped "about three inches" at one end, cracking wall and ceiling plaster.

Miss Gain said she was taking an order for groceries when she first felt the tremor. She said her mother screamed, "Come on, Sue, let's get out of here."

"Only a few minutes later the lower wall which is the foundation collapsed. One of the first things to buckle was the floor and then all our groceries fell.

"We don't know how much damage was done—but it must be plenty," she said.

Oak Bay firemen and police roped off the immediate area after the foundation collapsed.

Mr. Hicks said the annual Victoria Chapter Order of De Molay Valentine dance scheduled for today would have to be cancelled—"and I imagine everything will have to be cancelled for two weeks."

Workmen on the adjoining property were preparing to pour concrete today for a new store block to be built on the site of the old municipal hall. Their excavation came within inches of the collapsed wall.

Owner of the building, C. Somerville Allen said last night he knew nothing of the damage and refused to comment.

Building inspector Kenneth Cunningham said other stores in the block were not threatened, including the Oak Bay Theatre.

He said the foundation was "laying on soggy, sandy material and was undermined by water."

Half-Way Through The Test!

By TED SHACKLEFORD

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111—between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

Today is the half-way mark in my assigment to live for a month on $55 . . . and I think I'll make it. Maybe.

But if I do it will be by the skin of my teeth. With another 15 days to go and only $14.16 left there isn't much leeway for mistakes or luxuries.

My weight has remained constant at 160 pounds. So far I have spent $23.16 on food, etc., but this includes a number of staples and quantities of food which will last me for the rest of the month.

Like flour, sugar, tea, coffee, puffed wheat, onions, tomato juice, spaghetti, salt, pepper, detergent, soap and margarine.

But it doesn't include the cost of heating my room, wear and tear on clothes or cleaning.

SERIOUS ERROR

I seriously miscalculated somewhere with powdered milk. I started off with a large package, enough to make up 12 quarts of reconstituted milk. I only have about a quarter of the packet left.

And cigaret tobacco is another item I goofed over—I thought I could manage to go the month with only a one-pound tin of tobacco, but I have had to buy another one already.

I have allowed myself two nights as a baby sitter to eke out the $55—an occupation that is readily open to pensioners, and work that a number of them do.

BABY SITTING

My first baby-sitting night is Sunday, at a Saanich house. The husband will drive downtown to pick me up, and drive me home again at the end of the evening.

These first 16 days have not been very pleasant—my room gets very cold at night without heat, and my cooking left a lot to be desired, but at least I am not burning everything now. I hope to eat much better these next two weeks.

Letters and telephone calls are still pouring in to this office. Here are some more of the letters:

"I rather hope you don't manage to make your money last as you might prove to some people that an OAP can live on such meagre money and therefore it would seem to me to be detrimental to any requests they make to the government for an increase."

★ ★ ★

"There should be some arrangement made so that those old people who have lived in Canada all their lives and who have contributed something to the country should be granted a better pension than those who have been here only 10 years (the minimum length of residence to qualify for the federal government payment of $55)."

"I grow my own vegetables and can my own fruit, bake my own bread, which should be a must for every person on small incomes as it is so easy to do and so much better bread than bought bread.

"I live alone and my grocery bill for the year 1958 was exactly $143.74. I did not try to save, but to spend more would have only been waste, and I may add that I live extremely well and deny myself nothing."

★ ★ ★

"I am very grateful to a government that can give one such benefits. . . . I had to swallow lots of pride before I could bring myself to (accept the cheque), but when the late premier Mr. St. Laurent accepted his cheque from the federal government I forgot my pride and took it gratefully, with no qualms.

"It is a crime that parliamentarians should accept any such cheque—they have good salaries and, at retirement, an added pension."

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"A friend of mine is a retired druggist and he doesn't need the $55 pension cheque from the federal government. He takes it each month and spends the money to help pensioners who do need more cash, and to help other people who have fires or bad luck. More people should do that with the cheque they don't need themselves."

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"No doubt you will have one grand and glorious big eat when it is over. To do it and criticize the other who can't, remember he or she has to buy clothes out of the $55 with no amusement but drab, drab existence until the end of the chapter."

★ ★ ★

"I think old folks who do not pay income tax should not have to pay the school taxes. We did not get any help to bring up our children or help when our husbands were idle, and often had to help our aged parents who got no old age pensions."

Yesterday I bought a tin of tobacco ($1.68), a large package of cereal (35 cents), three cans of tomato juice on special (89 cents) and a can of chicken haddie (29 cents).